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Philosophy paper

            For many years people have mention the name Buddha everywhere and there are many articles with this name as well. For my performance task I chose this philosopher because I want to have more knowledge about Buddhism and its founder. I would like to know who they worship and why. I believe that by doing this project I am going to learn new things that will provide me for the future and provide information for those who are interested in learning about the Buddha.

            Shakyamuni or Siddhartha Gautama was born as a royal prince in 624 BC in a place called Lumbini, which was originally in northern India but is now part of Nepal. His mother was named Queen Mayadevi and his father king Shuddhodana Gautama, chieftain of the Shakya clan and family of the Kshatriya caste of ancient Bharata. He was given the name Siddhartha because it means "he who has accomplished his objectives". He was also called Shakyamuni "the wise sage of the Shakya clan", Ghagavat "blessed with happiness", Jina "the victorious" or the most common Buddha "the enlightened one". As a young boy he mastered all the tradition arts and he knew sixty-four languages. There was time when a sage, a person who is wise, visited the king and spoke about the child’s prophesy. the prophesy said that Shakyamuni would become a powerful ruler if he remained in the palace, but if he leave the palace and was expose to human misery, Shakyamuni would seek the truth about life. Therefore, the king ordered his subjects to protect him from any evil or suffering.

Shakyamuni married his cousin Yasodhara at age sixteen, he could have married more women but he decided to stay with her. Even though his father did not permit Shakyamuni to step outside the palace, he would always find a way to escape and venture outside the palace. When he used to travel to the capital of his father's kingdom, Shakyamuni witness how the people suffered and die. Realizing that only the wisdom and power of the Buddha could help the living, when his first son was born he left the palace as a poor beggar monk seeking the truth about life.

For seven years, he sought the teaching of two Brahmin hermits and then of five monks, eventually Shakyamuni discovered that instead of denying food to himself or sleep as the monks did, he ate solid food and did not denied himself worldly things. This angered the monks and he moved on leaving them in the past. Shakyamuni sat under certain tree as long as it took to find the answer of suffering. With the rising of the morning star, Shakyamuni understood the answer to suffering and became the Buddha “he who is awake.” He overcame every obstacle and temptations that the evil cast as he remained completely calm. Shakyamuni decided to share the knowledge he knew with the people, that is why Buddhist feels that Buddhism is based on the truth and compassion.

According to legend there were a few assassination attempts against the Buddha. Devadatta, a cousin of Shakyamuni, tried to kill him more than one because he did not agree in the Buddha’s belief. The first attempt involved hiring a group of archers to shoot the Buddha, but when the archers met the Buddha, they laid down their bows and became followers. In second attempt, Devadatta rolled a big boulder downhill, at that time the Buddha was passing by with his follower. The boulder hit another boulder and splits apart, only grazing the Buddha’s foot. In the third attempt, Devadatta got an elephant drunk and set it loose so the elephant could kill the Buddha, but the attempt was a failure. For more than 40, Shakyamuni dedicated himself to spread his new religion, at the age of 80 a blacksmith fed him a poisonous food, he became very ill and died.

At Sarnath near Benares, Buddha gave his first sermon which was called “setting the wheel of the teaching in motion.” He also explained the Four Noble Truths and the eightfold Path which are the foundation of all Buddhist belied:

1. All human life is suffering.
2. All suffering is caused by human desire, particular desire that impermanent things be permanent.
3. Human suffering can be ended by ending human desire.
4. Desire can be ended by the “Eightfold Noble Path” which is right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.

Buddhist Dharma is based on the idea that everything in the world is liked. That all things are composite things and that they are composed of several elements. To become a Buddhist monk or nun, one must eliminate all desires and understand correctly the nature of the universe. Devote one’s life to selfless action and final by losing all sense of one’s self and desires, then a person can pass to the state of nirvana. Nirvana means “blowing out”, this is the state that a person is free from suffering and this is the state a person pass when he or she reaches death. This is the state the Buddha passed into when he died

In my perspective I agree in the ways of the Buddha, I comprehend the ways he sees the world. People are trapped in the illusion of happiness instead for pursuing the truth, we stand and do nothing. Buddhism is a religion were one can awaken from total ignorance and see the world as it really is. There are people who have awakened from their sleep of ignorance and have done great things to help others. I believe that people could change for the better because there a wondrous thing to discover but ignorance blinds them.

Therefore I learn that Buddha was a wise person and he followed what he believed in. I also learn that people can awake from ignorance if they devote themselves to do so. Life is about finding the happiness within you and there are people who are happy with simple things, but there are people who are selfish and are not happy with what they have. I would like to see the world as the Buddha did and I would like to make a change in my life. I would like people to change for the better and care for each other, to find the true meaning of peace like the Buddha did.

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